

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6193

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2947

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJ: NEW OFFICERS OF ARGENTINE CONGRESS

REF: BA 2065, PARA 5

1. SUMMARY: JOSE ANTONIO ALLENDE HAS BEEN INDICATED AS NEW PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF SENATE. APPARENTLY NO TOP LEVEL CHANGES ARE EXPECTED IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER MEETING APR 23 BETWEEN FREJULI SENATORS AND MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON (IN HER CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF SENATE), IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT JOSE ANTONIO ALLENDE (PPC-CORDOBA) WILL BE DESIGNATED NEW PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF SENATE ON APR 26 (A ROLE IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ACTING SINCE JULY OF LAST YEAR). SENATOR YAMILI BARBORA DE NASSIF, PERONIST LADY FROM SANTA FE, WILL BE DESIGNATED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TO REPLACE ALLENDE. SENATOR AMERICO GARCIA (MID-SAN JUAN) WILL REMAIN AS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOT ANY OFFICIAL WORD, SPECULATION NOW IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO TOP LEVAL CHANGES IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

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IX RAUL LASTIRI WILL REAMIN AS PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT PERON HAS IN FACT GONE TO A NON PERONIST AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. ALLENDE THUS STANDS IMMEDIATELY AFTER VICE PRESIDENT IN ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. SENATOR LUDER, WHO WAS ALSO IN RUNNING FOR THE JOB, COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS SOME WEEKS AGO THAT IF PERON CHOSE ALLENDE, IT WOULD MEAN HE WISHED TO DOWNPLAY THE SUCCESSION ISSUE. THAT THIS MAY WELL BE THE CASE IS SUGGESTED BY FACT THAT ALLENDE APPOINTMENT IS ACCOMPANIED BY PROMINENT EDITORIAL IN LAST ISSUE OF LAS BASES (OFFICIAL ORGAN OF PERONIST MOVEMENT) WHICH STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT PERON HAS NO PERSONAL HEIRS. WHAT HE WILL LEAVE BEHIND, EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES, WILL NOT HAVE TOW LEGS AND A SURNAME; RATHER, IT WILL BE A POLITICAL HERITAGE, A NEW POLITICAL STYLE FOR A NEW ARGENTINA. EDITORIAL CHIDES THOSE IN PERONIST MOVEMENT WHO REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND THIS FACT AND CONTINUE TO JOCKEY FOR POSITION WITH THEIR EYES ON THE MANTLE.
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